

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

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General Summary of News.

[No. 206.]

Marquis of Hastings.

We received by the Dawk of yesterday, Madras Gazettes to the 18th of September, and a copy of the Bombay Courier Extraordinary of the 13th of September, communicating the heads of the intelligence brought to that Port, by the Ship Hannah, Captain Heathorne, which left the Downs on the 6th of June, and brought London Papers to the 1st.

In our Journal of yesterday, we anticipated these accounts, from the private Letters that reached us from Bombay; and in looking over the Courier Extraordinary, we do not find any material circumstance that we have not already communicated to our readers.

We proceed, therefore, to lay before them the promised communication which has reached us, from a London Evening Paper of the 27th of May, on a subject which must be of paramount interest to the community of India; and which besides the feelings that it is likely to call forth in the breasts of all who read it, is in itself a highly interesting document if viewed only in regard to the information, that the writer displays on the history of Indian affairs, and the general treatment of those illustrious characters who have successively raised it to the pitch of eminence and greatness on which it now stands, by their wisdom, their valour, and their high-minded integrity.

The first portion of this communication is in the form of a Letter addressed to the Editor of a London Evening Paper of the 27th of May, by an Old Proprietor; and the next, the comments of the Editor on the matter thus communicated, which we shall here place in their natural order. The Letter is as follows:—

Sir,

London, May 27, 1819.

I went to the India House yesterday, immediately after my arrival from the country, that I might give my vote for the discharge of the debt of gratitude which we owe to the Marquis of Hastings. The scene which took place was as surprising to me as it was unexpected: indeed I might have recollected how Lord Wellesley was assailed in 1805. At that time I had just returned from Bengal; and well aware, as we all were in India, of the vagacity of that Nobleman's plans, and the ability with which they were conducted to a successful issue, in spite of some unfortunate events which checked them for a moment, I expected to have found his countrymen sympathising with his difficulties, and admiring the bravery of mind with which he bore them. In place of this, I found them frightened out of their wits at the first repulse in a career of glory and of conquest. Our Court, in place of cheering him on to the goal which was then in sight, took the alarm also, and persuaded themselves that the safety of India required his recall.

Well Sir, I hope we shall shew, by the numbers of the ballot that is now to take place, that we are grown wiser since that time; I have no knack at speaking, or I should have made some remarks upon the strange things that were averred in the Debate; but I am no orator, and I hoped some one else would have noticed them. As it has not been done, permit me to occupy a corner in your Paper, with a few observations.

It is admitted by Mr. Hume (who has succeeded this time in having original opinions of his own), that the war with the Pindarries was not merely just but necessary, and that any measure short of the annihilation of their power would not have been attended with any useful consequence; yet he disapproves of the Mahratta Wars in which we were involved in the prosecution of this necessary object. He does not know any thing with regard to Holkar. "He does not know," and the Court of Directors do not know what the Marquis is doing. They have not had a scrap of paper from him for 16 months." This ignorance on the part of the Honorable Proprietor is the more strange to me, as he is a Member of Parliament, and has read, I suppose, the papers laid before the House of Commons in February. He will find in Nos. 70 and 72 some further account of the causes of the War with Holkar. He will see what the Marquis is doing, in his letters to the Secret Committee of the 1st of October, 4th of November, 14th and 29th of December; and in particular, I observe two long letters to the Court of Directors of the 8th of February and 19th of May 1818, the last received in December, only five months ago. There is another letter to the Court, of the 20th of June, announcing the surrender of Bajee Rao. As the letters can no longer, after being laid before Parliament, be considered as State Secrets, why should the Hon. Gentleman affect to forget them, in the Court of Proprietors? or if he has not taken the trouble to read them, and to understand the merits of the case, why must he speak upon it so decidedly?

I must correct another slip of memory. We were told, that this war as different from the brilliant and singular extinction of the Mysore power, because hostilities were still going on, and it was impossible for him to say what would be the result.

This sentence must allude to the Goands, south of the Nerbudda, among whom that imbecile wretch, Appa Sahib, had taken refuge with his

Arabs, and who are still plundering our new country. Perhaps some persons, who are always foreseeing interminable wars and disputes, and trembling at some unknown phantom which they expect to arise in India, are apprehensive, that this poor creature will prove a second Don Pelago, and that he will defeat our sepoys with his brave mountaineers, and drive us back to our old frontier. They may be easy on this score; I will venture to predict, that Colonel Adams will put an end to his career in a month's time after he gets into the hills; nay, more, I will foretell that we shall have the Goands in as good order in three years, as the Mewatees to the S. W. of Delhi are now. The Bhooslas Government never could do this in the least. The only thing that I am disappointed at, in that quarter is, that we have not taken Asseerghur. It is a place of immense strength, and if taken with celerity would raise our credit greatly in the eyes of the natives in that part of the country. It is also, from its strength and position, of great value, and would form the keystone of a bridge of posts, if I may so speak, stretching from Surat to Bundelcund, and against which the turbulent and the disaffected might foam in vain.

However, people when they talk of hostilities still going on, as a thing quite different from the state of affairs in Mysore, seem to forget that Dhoondia Waugh remained in the field for above a year after the fall of Tipoo, and that two divisions under Colonels Wellesley and Stevenson were employed after him so late as September 1800, when his defeat and the destruction of his force by the former, formed one of the first laurels which the Duke of Wellington reaped in India.

The Polygars to the south of Mysore were not effectually subdued until 1800: yet these were perceived to be nothing in the balance with the subversion of the Sultan's power and the conquest of Mysore. Accordingly, the Court of Proprietors confirmed a pension of £5000 a year to the Marquis Wellesley on the 15th January, 1801. This was long before the Marquis wound up his accounts with them.

What was done in the case of Lord Clive? When he returned to India a second time, the Company had agreed that he should enjoy his jaghere for ten years after, when it was to revert to them; but when they received the accounts of his procuring them the Dewanny, they immediately voted him their thanks and resolved that his jaghere should be confirmed to him and to his heirs for ten years more. It was valued at £30,000 a year.

It seems that some gentlemen, now that our affairs in India are at so low an ebb, know not where to get funds for this grant. I will tell them. Let them take the salary of a Commander in Chief, which they have saved since Sir George Nugent left India, now four years and upwards, Lord Hastings having done the duties of both offices on the Salary of Governor General. The sums thus saved must already exceed £40,000.

If Lord Clive founded our Empire in the East, it is no less clear to any attentive observer, that the present Governor General has consolidated it, by binding together the three Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, which now unite their armies on the Nerbudda, by extending our dominions to the natural limits prescribed to India, and by establishing our paramount controul within these boundaries.

Such being the case, I lament that there should be any where a disinclination to shew our gratitude by our actions; and I am not less sorry and ashamed to observe the indecent manner in which the Marquis's private affairs have been commented upon in our debates. There is indeed no pleasing some people; for one respectable individual within the bar objected to the vote, because there were better grounds for it which had not been assigned. This was his fifth objection, and for this and other reasons he protested against it. This seems to be an over-nicety.

AN OLD PROPRIETOR.

To this the Editor has appended the following full, able, and judicious remarks in his leading column of the same date.

In a preceding column, our readers will find a letter from a Proprietor of India Stock, who makes some judicious remarks upon the late Debate, in Leadenhall-street. Joining, however, as we do, in his opinion of the facts, we cannot concur in his surprise and astonishment at the treatment which Lord Hastings receives from some of the speakers. We have taken much pains of late, to make ourselves acquainted with Indian affairs, which are becoming daily of more importance. The result of our reading, compels us to say, that if our Correspondent had been more conversant with the history of India, he would have known, that envy and detraction have invariably dogged the heels of every ruler, who has done any thing beyond the official routine of his office. Every one of the Governors, who have carried on arduous wars, or brought new masses of subjects within the pale of our milder and steadier government, have experienced this.

Ploravere suis non respondere favorem,
Speratuna meritis.

In our free country, fertile in all the anomalous luxuriance of character, there appear to be some who take a delight in performing the functions of the slave in a Roman triumph. The Indians may flatter their Vice-Roy, that he is an Avatar, but they take care to remind him he is only a man.

To begin with Clive, the founder of our Eastern Empire. In 1758 twelve months after the battle of Plassey, a ship arrived from England with the orders of the superior authorities at home, for the regulation of this new government. "The Directors (says Mr. Scrafton), divided by violent contests among themselves, which certainly did them no honour, were so unfortunate in their judgement as to appoint four Governors to Bengal, to govern each for three months, and left Colonel Clive entirely out of this list." The result does infinite honour to the four; they unanimously agreed to waive their own nomination, and requested Clive to accept the undivided office of President. We remember one parallel to this disinterested patriotism among the Athenian leaders at Marathon, and no other.

In 1760, Lord Clive returned to Europe, and how far he was satisfied with the language and manner of those to whom he had given a kingdom, may be gathered from the last paragraph of his last dispatch. The curious reader will find it in Mills's History of India.* His re-appointment to Bengal in 1764, we find in the same Work, was carried in the Court of Directors by a majority of two; thirteen being for, and eleven against it.

The strong party, both in the Court of Directors and in Parliament, in opposition to all Warren Hastings's measures, is well known; and through what an ordeal he passed, before England would confirm the award of India on his pre-eminent talents and profound sagacity.

When Lord Cornwallis was forced into the first Mysore War, by the hostilities of Tippon against the Travancore Raja, (our ally) the injustice and inexpediency of the war furnished topics for declamation in England. Mr. Hippisley and Mr. Francis wanted to preserve Mysore entire, because it was a *balancing power* and because the *finances of the Company could ill endure the burden of an expensive war*. The finances seem to be a standing ground of alarm with Indian Politicians; if they cannot raise their supplies within the year they are ruined. Mr. Fox denounced the alliance with the Mahrattas and the Nizam as a plundering confederacy for the purpose of extirpating a lawful prince!

The brilliant and decisive operations of 1799 encouraged the Court of Directors to propose to the Proprietors, an immediate pension of £5000 to Lord Wellesley. The debate which took place will be found in the Asiatic Annual Register for 1800, and it is worth reading. One gentleman acquits himself of the debt of gratitude, by saying, that *he* (one Mr. Macfarlane) saw nothing but what common prudence and discretion might achieve, and he thought the princely situations of Governors in India were ample compensation for the best services they could perform. Another thought £5000 too much now, but had no objection to it after Lord Wellesley's return. A third stopped to pay compliments to Tippon in a long speech, and to prove that he was no Tyrant and his father no Usurper. So, on this occasion, some people cannot believe, that the Peishwa intended to massacre Mr. Elphinstone; but nobody has been found to praise his or Holkar's excellent government, or to lament the sad fate of the Nagpore Raja, a most legitimate sovereign, and connected by blood with the original Mahratta princes, the family of Sevajee.

The transcendent services of Lord Wellesley, and the wisdom of his plans, are now, we see, fully admitted; but our readers connected with India, will remember how they were treated and acknowledged at the time. Those who are not acquainted with Indian affairs, may be told in a few words, that his favorite measures were thwarted; his college, which it is now the fashion for every body to praise, was crippled in the birth, and he was recalled when on the eve of accomplishing his schemes. Such as are curious after particulars, may refer to the famous dispatch written to him and signed by most of the Court of Directors; but which the Board of Control would not let them send. It is to be found at length, and with full notes, in the Asiatic Annual Register.

Upon referring to these facts, we think Lord Hastings is comparatively well-used. Twenty-five out of thirty who have been lately in the direction concur in the proposed grant. Some who object to the grant, concurred warmly in the vote of thanks. And if we may judge of the ballot by the show of hands on Wednesday in the Court of Proprietors, an immense majority of that liberal and independent body concur with the great majority of their Directors.

Some of those who oppose the grant, do so no doubt on honorable and sincere conviction. So Mr. Whitbread deprecated the war of 1815. We cannot account for the perversities of the human intellect. In a large and free assembly, unanimous opinions will scarcely ever be entertained on very recent occurrences. Those who come under this class of fair opponents, may easily be distinguished by their candour in debate and their firmness tempered with courtesy and moderation. There are other more ignoble causes, however, which swell the list of opposition.

There is first, the usual number of detractors, who feel the splendor of living merit painful to their eyes. There are also the croakers, who are ever boding failures; the men who deprecated any attempts to meet Buonaparte on land, because he told us he was invincible. There is also at all times, a numerous class of moderate and worthy men of confined understandings, who cannot comprehend the plans of a man of commanding genius, and cannot enter into his views. Their obvious course is to decry them as fanciful, or far beyond our means, and to call out in favor of economy and prac-

tical measures; they are always in the moment of greatest danger for husbanding our resources, and for something prudent and cautious. They are unable to exercise any long foresight, and they pride themselves on feeling their way which they cannot see. The classical reader will remember such a faction in the senate of Carthage. They opposed the splendid projects of her greatest General, they undervalued his victories, thwarted his plans and starved his resources. With perfect consistency to the end, they rejoiced in his failure which they had helped to bring about, and in the midst of their country's ruin, prided themselves on the fulfillment of their predictions. The illustrious conqueror of Hannibal had no better fortune. After having served his country, in the field and in the senate, from very early youth, neither his eminent public services, nor the mild wisdom and warm benevolence of his private character could protect him from being brought to a public trial upon a charge of plunder in the Asiatic war. In our times, many writers and speakers of great note sneered at the idea of our saving Portugal and defending Spain; and continued up to the very time of our entering France to look out for dreadful reverses, and to believe the nonsense in the *Moniteur* about a clap of thunder coming when it might best suit Buonaparte.

Then comes the class of old Indians who furnish the ablest and also the most bigotted of our Leadenhall street politicians. In politics, as in poetry, a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A man fancy often that he has a belly-full of this commodity, when in truth he has only a mouthful, and is puffed up with windy conceits. In India every thing has been changing yearly since the time of Warren Hastings. The increased vigour of the Government; the intimate acquaintance obtained with the financial systems of the country; and the complete introduction of our Courts of Law; have altered the condition of our own possessions. The breaking up of effete dynasties, the crumbling down of hostile states, the rancorous jealousy of some, and the imbecile weakness of others, have produced by degrees a new state of foreign relations.

Called upon by the march of events, and at last by the cries of suffering humanity, we have picked up the Imperial crown, which was trampled in the dust, and put it on our brows. In one short campaign, hostility was beaten down, and the rescued nations flocked to our standard.

The accounts which we have derived from some gentlemen of respectability lately arrived from Bengal, confirm the prosperous statement which is conveyed in the public dispatches. Strange as it may seem, some of our old Indians are the last to credit this; it was not so in their time, and they shut their eyes to the gradual expansion and consolidation of our Empire since 1794. They are persuaded things must in reality be pretty much as they were 15 years ago. When they left India, the orb of our power was only beginning to rise over the Ghats, and still shot a level light upon the Mahratta dominions. Public and private accounts concur in stating, that all India now beams in the blaze, and that the rays culminate from the meridian. But no, they are sure this is some optical illusion: they have been in India themselves when the sun was rising, and they are sure they would find him in the same part of the heavens, if they should return.

Many of these persons, though extremely prejudiced, are otherwise sensible men; and thus their obsolete notions of policy, pass for the dictates of wisdom and experience among their friends.

Lastly there are many persons in London, who in place of reading the public papers and dispatches, enquiring and reflecting for themselves, form their opinion entirely on some private letters from persons on the spot. The value of such information may be estimated by any one who remembers the heap of silly and absurd rumours we used regularly to receive in private letters from Paris, or the criticisms on the Duke of Wellington's campaigns (especially on the occasion of any check) which were drawn from the same abundant source of, *private letters from the Army*. It is very amiable to be sure, but also very silly, to attach the importance, we see some people do, to the accounts they receive from their own nephew or their school-fellow abroad, and how readily his crude notions are allowed—provided his tone be positive enough. In this way, the conceits of ignorance, the clamours of disappointed interest, and the croaking of shallow discontented Alarmists are received at this distance as most material information. The most unfounded and absurd statements are made and believed, on the authority of *private letters from India*.

In this way, a minority is made up; and considering all this, we think Lord Hastings's friends and the admirers of his policy should be well satisfied that it is so small. We are sorry indeed to see the respectable names of Mr. Grant and Mr. Hudleston in such company; knowing their private worth, we wish they had not followed a line of conduct which we consider as impolitic, and as most ungracious to the Governor General.

We are as anxious as Mr. Grant, to see the Marquis's system of governing the countries he has conquered, and from what we can learn of the present state of India, and what we know of His Lordship's liberal principles of rule, (principles which he professed out of power, and which he has carried with him into power,) we anticipate the most important advantages to that empire from his pacific sway. It is time we lay our account with increased establishments, and even some increase to this dreadful *Indian debt*, but this does not alarm us. We should be made more uneasy at any short-sighted parsimony which should cramp our efficient power, and in the smallest degree expose our acquisitions to hazard.

Our readers will readily pardon the length which we have gone in discussing this subject. It is one of great and of increasing importance, public and private; as there is now scarcely a family in Great Britain that has not a son or a relation in the East.

* See Mills's History, Vol. 2, pages 190.

Engano.

In addition to the particulars communicated in a former Number of our Journal, regarding this island and its inhabitants, as well as of the shipwreck of the *Union*, and release of her crew which occasioned the visit to it from Bencoolen, we have been politely furnished with the following particulars.

About the 20th January 1817, three persons arrived at Bencoolen stating that fourteen months before that period they had belonged to a ship called the *Union*, commanded by Captain Barker, which vessel had been wrecked on a reef lying off an island which they called *Poelo Telanjung*, (meaning, in the Malay language, naked island, the inhabitants not wearing any clothes;) that they had no sooner reached the land than they were, Europeans as well as Lascars, indiscriminately surrounded by the inhabitants; deprived of all their clothes; divided into small parties; compelled to work all day long, closely watched in the yam gardens; and in the evening to cut fuel and carry it to the huts of their savage masters.

They said that they were fed, scantily, on plantains and herbs; that no rice was cultivated on the island; and that when any of them fell sick, they were tied by the hands and feet, stones being attached to the latter, and thrown into the sea; in which manner several of their comrades had perished. These persons stated that, about twenty days before their arrival at Bencoolen, being weary of life, they had determined to attempt to effect their escape in the night time: that they were lodged in a shed near the beach upon which several of the native canoes were drawn up, and hoped they should find an opportunity, sooner or later, to elude the vigilance of their keepers.

They found means to communicate their intentions to Captain Barker and entreated him to go off with them; he, however, was very ill, and his legs were so much swollen that he could not walk without great difficulty and pain. Captain B. represented their project to them as extremely hazardous, but instructed them, if they were resolved upon it, to make the best of their way towards the rising sun; when, if they escaped a watery grave, they could not fail to make land. Accordingly they watched their opportunity, and one dark night, while their masters were sleeping, they stole down to the beach; contrived means to lash two of the canoes together; constructed a sail out of some pieces of matting, and ventured out to sea.

They had no water, and all their provisions consisted of a few coconuts; but when the sun rose next morning they found themselves at a great distance from the island, and beyond the reach of pursuit. They said that they had been out at sea five or six days without seeing any land, but on the sixth or seventh perceived high mountains; a few days afterwards they drifted on shore at a place called *Billenbing*; walked from thence to the station of Croce, from whence they were sent up, by the Company's Officer residing there, to Bencoolen.

There was no difficulty in deciding that the island off which the *Union* had been wrecked, and from whence those three persons had escaped, was *ENGANO*. Fortunately there were then some vessels lying in the roads at Bencoolen, which had brought a relief of troops for the Settlement. Captain Napier of the Ship *Good Hope* was represented to the Resident as a very able navigator, and proposals were made to him to proceed to Engano in order to ransom the surviving officers and crew of the unfortunate *Union*. Captain Napier immediately acceded to the terms offered, provided the Resident would take on himself the risk of the ship's deviation from her voyage, as she was insured only to Bencoolen and back again to Calcutta.

The business was urgent, and the common feelings of humanity dictated an instantaneous assent to this condition. Advice of the circumstances of the case was forwarded to the Supreme Government by a vessel then on the point of departure for Bengal, and it is due to the Insurers of the *Good Hope* (Messrs. Fairlie, Fergusson and Co.) to state, that they allowed the original insurance to stand good, notwithstanding the hazardous deviation from the destined voyage of the ship.

Preparations were immediately made for dispatching the *Good Hope* to Engano. Mr. Frederick Garling, a Civil Servant on the Bencoolen Establishment, was appointed by the Resident to proceed at the head of the mission. Mr. Surgeon Smith was, at his own request, nominated to afford such medical aid as might be necessary. The late Lieutenant Coote of the 20th Regiment, with a party of forty men of that Corps, was ordered to embark on the *Good Hope* for the protection of the Ship and of the mission. Bar Iron, Brass-wire, English Axes, Bencoolen made Choppers, Nails of sorts, Beads of colours, Scarlet Cloth, Chintz, Blue Cloths and White, Looking-glasses, &c. were sent on board as articles of the descriptions most likely to induce the barbarians to part readily with their prisoners. All these persons, and all these stores, were placed wholly under the controul, and at the disposal of Mr. Garling; and Captain Napier was desired to consider himself entirely under that gentleman's direction.

The *Good Hope* sailed on the 31st January 1817 (not in April of that year as stated by mistake in the Journal) and returned to Bencoolen on the 20th of February with thirty individuals (exclusive of the three who had effected their escape as above mentioned) rescued from the most distressing and most hopeless state of slavery. The instructions given by the Resident to Mr. F. Garling, and that gentleman's official report of his proceedings, were subsequently published in the Government Gazette.

The Ship had to encounter adverse winds in getting down to Engano, which she did not reach till the 5th February 1817. Mr. Garling, in a very able manner, speedily opened a communication with the inhabitants, who

all go about quite uncovered, except that some of the females (who are represented as being tall, well proportioned, and fairer than the generality of Malayan women) were observed to wear a strip of plantain leaf round the waist. After a short hesitation they ventured on board the vessel without alarm, bartered coconuts, plantains, yams, twine, spears, head-ornaments, &c. for such trifles as were offered to them. They had fowls, but not in considerable numbers: they had pigs also, but of very diminutive size, hairy and striped like deer. They had no rice, and did not seem to like what was offered to them, either raw or boiled. Of the stores sent they seemed most to prefer the white and the blue beads, not caring much for the red; the Aurora Cloth, and the smaller English axes: the nails they did not appear to value at all:—the Chintz and coloured cloths not much: the white cloth very much: the brass-wire but little, and the looking-glasses still less; nor did they seem to value the iron in bars:—the larger axes they expressed were too heavy, and although they liked the Bencoolen made choppers, they rejected those which had flaws in them.

Whatever was given to them, they hung round their necks. Some of them had knives suspended over their backs (which, it was understood, they procured from Javanese boats) but if any thing alarmed them, they grasped a spear in the right hand, the knife in the left, and threw themselves into a menacing posture. They appeared not to be ignorant of the use of great guns, for several, when they passed them on the deck of the ship, patted them timidly, and exclaimed "*come*." They were very fond of buttons, and strips or rags of cloth were highly acceptable: if a large piece of any sort of cloth was given to them, they forthwith tore it into fragments:—in short such mere trifles satisfied them, that, comparatively, but few of the stores shipped were expended in the ransom of the survivors of the crew of the *Union*.

The inhabitants of Engano have been accused of eating human flesh, but this was declared not to be the case by several of the rescued men; though they will devour raw pork, fish, &c. They are extremely treacherous, notwithstanding the kindest treatment, and no boat ought to go from a ship to the shore, unless well-armed.

In the middle of the month of April 1817, the Brig *Gessina* arrived at Bencoolen, bringing the first intelligence of any of the crew of the *Union* having escaped from Engano in safety, except the three who had reached Bencoolen, though these latter had stated that they were not the first who had made the attempt. This vessel had been engaged by the English Government at Batavia, and dispatched to the Resident at Fort Marlborough, under the idea that he might not, possibly, have any vessel at his command to send for the rescue of the wretched sufferers. From letters received by this Brig, it appeared that advice had been forwarded to the Resident, so far back as early in February 1817, of the escape of Mahomed and his four companions, and of the melancholy condition of the remaining crew of the *Union*; but that advice had never reached Bencoolen, and it has above been stated that the *Good Hope* had returned from her successful mission on the 20th. of the month of February 1817.

Certainly no trade, nor any communication whatever, was carried on between Bencoolen, (or any of its dependencies on the West Coast of Sumatra,) and Engano, at the date in question. It would appear, however, that some Boogheese Prows, from the Eastward of the Island of Java, did occasionally visit Engano; and it is remarkable, therefore, that earlier intimation of the wreck of the *Union*, and of the distressed situation of her Officers, and crew, was not conveyed either to the Government at Batavia, or to that at Bencoolen: for by the account of Mahomed and of his companions it appeared that this misfortune had occurred seventeen months before their escape; and by the statement of the three men who happily reached Bencoolen, the wreck was declared to have taken place about fourteen months prior to their arrival there.

A Canoe of extreme length, but of trifling width, with its figure-head, paddles, and outriggers; also some spears, and some female head-ornaments, brought from Engano, were presented by Mr. SIDDONS, late Resident at Fort Marlborough, to the Asiatick Society's Museum, where they are now to be seen.

Deeds of Arms.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

That much may be said on both sides of a Question, has indeed been amply verified by the combatants, whom you have from time to time, exhibited before us in the Military Discussions; which your Journal has been the first to give with perfect freedom to the Indian world.

I must, however, still think, that on the Question of Brevet Rank, neither and none of them have, as yet entered upon the case on its proper grounds. One of the principals, calls himself "*A FRIEND TO THE ARMY*," the other "*ONE OF THE NEW SCHOOL*." I object to their very names—and there is great virtue in a name.

The Army can stand in need of no *FRIEND* to advocate its cause, or to ameliorate its condition, while it is blessed with its present Illustrious Chief. —An *avowed friend* is a bad advocate; with a good cause I should prefer a *neutral*, or even an *honest enemy*. "*A Friend to the People*," — "*A Friend to Reform*," — a Demagogue, — a Revolutionist. Every thing, every word, that brings with it a society of unpleasant party-feelings, ought to be avoided in a discussion among Friends; which has for its object the interest and welfare of all.

The idea of a separate interest existing between the Government and its Army, is absurd, yet those two Writers have contrived to array them against each other; and the New School Writer, has also attempted, as well by his name (if indeed it be at all significant,) as by his matter, to stir up a division in the Army itself. I cannot think, that Master New School, by informing us *where* (is it *where*, I am to say? or *how*, or *when*,) he was educated, meant to disparage himself, I am unwilling to presume by the contrast, that he designs to condemn those who are not of his seminary.

In this discussion, we have heard much of *feelings*; but I apprehend, that the question at issue must be considered without (or at least with very little) reference to feelings. Proper feelings can never be adverse to the public good, and the feelings of this Army will never be found to be so. If the measure of introducing Brevet Rank by patronage, should prove advantageous to the public interest, the feelings of the Army will unquestionably fall in with it. If the introduction of such Brevet could be shewn to be either *necessary* or *advantageous* to Government, I will venture to say, that the Army will be the last class of the Honorable Company's subjects to complain of it.

But as patronage is of itself an evil, because its *tendency* is to supersede, instead of rewarding merit: to act *graciously* instead of *justly*, I see no good reason for extending its influence, unless necessity, or at all events *advantage* can be evidently shewn from doing so. The *qui bono?* is a question very requisite to be asked of projectors and innovators. It would, to say the least of it, produce a very great change in the constitution of this Army; and mind me, my young Friend, every alteration is not an improvement. You wish for younger Officers to command. Look at the Army at this moment. There is scarcely an Officer commanding a Battalion in the service, (mostly Field Officers, some of them old Lieutenant Colonels) above the age of 38 or 40. So much for the *necessity* of the measure, with reference to what I conceive to be the most important point of your argument, in so far as the interest of Government is concerned.

And is there no way of attaining this desirable end, but by the plan you recommend? Why not give us more Field Officers? Two Lieutenant Colonels, at all events. Two Majors to each Battalion; and let the King's Brevet elevate the Old Schoolmen upon the shelf, as Major Generals. The junior Majors and Lieutenant Colonels to receive (if an object to Government,) the battalions of the inferior Rank, only, unless when in command of a corps, or detachment. The Artillery have got one Field Officer to every five inferiors. The Infantry only one Field Officer to every eight.—1 Colonel, 3 Lieutenant Colonels, and 4 Majors, 8 Field Officers to a Regiment instead of five as at present, would place the Infantry on an equality with the Artillery. The Cavalry have 1 Field Officer to every 6 inferiors. The Engineers 1 to every 4 or 5.—Were this established, a man would run through the course of his promotion before he was too old—and although the Company had to pay a few individuals who had served them 30 years, £360 instead of £276, a year, with all due economy throughout the other departments of Government, I should not think they would be ruined by it.

But the *necessity* of the measure, with reference to the advanced age of our Officers, and their consequent incapacity, as you infer, I by no means admit.—It is too late in the day to come forward with this doctrine. Who were, and are, those who have conquered India from one end to the other? Our Clive, Coote, Cornwallis, Lake, Hastings, Hisslop, Ochterlony, Doveton, Malcolm.—Again our Goddard, Popham,—our Close, Read, Scott, Munro, Wilks.—What indeed is the modern history of India composed of, but of the deeds of these and other such ancestors?

These deeds were done; and with means inconceivably short of what are now at our command. A small Army, powerful enemies—no *material*—I use this word because it will come home to a New Schoolman,—and let me ask my Young Friend, who it was that saw the defect, and placed our Army in so high a state of efficiency in this respect? Certainly not a youth. His youthful bloom had given way to the frontal insignia of experience and of wisdom.

Who was it that planned and ordered to the minutest detail, the means of destroying, in a few hours, one of the strongest Forts in India? I mention the siege of Hattaras, not so much on account of its own intrinsic importance; but because it was in truth the commencement of a new era in the history of our Indian warfare; and because, as an example, it has unquestionably been mainly instrumental in producing a series of unparalleled successes.—Who was it that planned and conducted the late war? Again I ask, Who was it that with the eye of forecast itself, instead of suffering his actions to be brought to light in garbled extracts, perhaps, from the shelves of Leadenhall Street, or the Board of Green Cloth, at the will of an Indian Minister, embraced the opportunity of what, to most men, would have appeared but an ordinary occasion to be filled up with bandied compliments and congratulations—to develop to the whole world at once, the history of his motives, his conduct, the difficulties he had to oppose, the barbarity of his enemies, the perfidy of his friends, and the success of his wishes, views, and anticipations, for the benefit of degraded man? Who was the Author of the state to which I allude, and which has called forth the admiration of all Europe?

I may be answered—True, He is, in *age*, of the *Old*; but, in *mind*, of the *New School*. This will not do: our business is with age alone, and its supposed concomitants, and the answer at best would be but a seizure of the position, by the force of assertion; which might be made in the case of

every individual who distinguished himself, whatever his age or school might be.—Father of all! of every age! grant us, we beseech thee, such aged Soldiers and Statesmen!

So much for the *necessity*, the *qui bono?* of the proposed plan, with reference to the aged. Let us see whether it is required as a stimulus to the young? The whole history of the Indian Army, with a hundred mouths, calls out that it is not. So high does the character of our Army stand, that to be distinguished, only, among our fellows, is of itself an ocean of recompense. And to be candid, so far as my observation goes, I have seldom indeed known an instance of such distinction that did not receive its substantial reward. The Officers of this Army now participate of the Royal grace and distinctions; and I see no reason why the deeds of *minority* should not be rewarded, when we attain the *majority*, to warrant them. Here is another source of reward.

But let me ask this Chivalrous Soldier, as he would have us believe himself to be. How long it is since it has become necessary to hang out to this Army, Red Ribbons and Brevet, as the stagemen do in Ireland a bag of oats on an out-rigger to the waggon pole, to induce their lazy horses to go forward?

If, however, you will insist upon farther rewards for merit. I pray you recommend to Government, if they are to reward part of their Officers, not to do it at the expense of all the rest. You endeavour to shew, that as the *non-worthies* would rise as before to their Lieutenant Colonel and Colonelcies, in spite of the Brevet, that they would sustain no *real* injury by your plan; but you forget that you would deprive the whole Army, for ever, of the only certain prospect they have, that is good, in the Service. I mean the Staff, as Major Generals. This is not altogether a question of *wounded feelings*, or if it be, the loss of five or six thousand a year is not much calculated to soothe them. I am now an Old Captain; suppose, as you do, that 5 or 6 of your *worthies* are put over my head as Majors "every campaign;" you do not indeed say how often you expect campaigns, but suppose one every three or four years. I shall rise, as you say, to my regiment in 25 years more, in spite of my supersession, and to the rank of Major General. But when I get there I shall find 20 or 30 Brevets already before me, as Major Generals, to be previously put on the Staff; and thus I must wait five and twenty year longer, till my *Juniors and Seniors* are served, because, forsooth, (I abjure all allusion to *time, place or persons*) about twenty years before, some of them had cut up (rode down?) a few wretched Pindarries, or fought when they were surrounded instead of laying down their arms; or volunteered to accompany a storming party and made a great noise, and were great favorites of the Officers commanding; while I was only at the head of our Grenadier Company that took the place. ("twinging the A. D. C.") We only took the place to be sure and lost 50 men out of the Company, and therefore had no right to much praise or lamentation; our Commander however, reported us to have "behaved with our usual steadiness and good conduct," adding before he concluded his dispatch "I must take the liberty of recommending to your Excellency's special protection my A. D. C. Captain (Ensign) John Augustus Meritissimus of the New School, a most promising Officer, who volunteered to accompany the storming party, and whose great and indefatigable exertions contributed in no small degree to the success of the assault. I have the honor to be, &c. Dennis Blarney O'Wheddeichim, Colonel Commanding."

I am sorry, that for the sake of affording an illustration of my argument I am compelled to appear what in truth I am very far from being, a detractor of merit, a niggard of praise. I am sincerely anxious, that every one of my brother officers, who performs his duty in a masterly style, shall receive his full measure of praise and of reward. But while I have eyes to read the history of British India, I cannot easily be brought to bestow my *highest* commendation far less look out for new honors to be awarded. The Indian Army ought, by this time, to have learnt to take, as *matter-of-course* occurrences, very *bold and gallant* acts, and to teach them to do so, as well as to let us know what may be done, so that we may not form an overweening estimate of our own deeds.

I would recommend to you, Mr. Editor, now and then to fill up a few pages of your Thursday's (one of your Literary days) paper, with Selections from the said History; and you may begin with the Defence of Wandewash by Flint, I think in 1781, you will find it told by Wilks and others. I mention this as it first occurred to me, and I venture to suggest such occasional publications, because I think they would be both agreeable and instructive to your Military readers, of whatever school they may be.

The affairs of *Corrygama* and *Nagpore* have been mentioned as the principal *faits* of the late glorious campaign, and a writer in your Journal has drawn a kind of comparison between them. He has I think, exaggerated that of Nagpore, not perhaps in the comparison; but in the consequences he ascribes to it. In my humble opinion, the strength, and position of our Armies were such as to render the fate of the Nagpore Detachment quite immaterial as to the success of the campaign, a circumstance however, the mention of which, while it "gives to Cæsar what is Cæsar's," as to the result of the campaign, does in no way detract from the well-earned fame of the heroes of *Sectabuldee*.

I say heroes; because, if my information be correct, there was an *infantry* charge as well as a charge of Cavalry, that tended in no small degree to "decide the fate of the battle." It appears, that the gallant Fitzgerald, exposed to a heavy cannonade, seeing his men drop fast, and a body of Horse attack the Residency, which some of them had penetrated, charged them in the most animated style, repulsed them, and captured two of their

guns. But the Arabs, taking advantage of the absence of the Cavalry, attacked Captain Lloyd's post, on the little hill, drove him from it, took his gun; which with two more of their own, they brought to bear on the large hill, the only remaining position of the Detachment. The fire which the Arabs were thus able to bring to bear upon the troops, was so heavy, that the whole must soon have been destroyed. The Arabs, confident in their numbers, and flushed with success were, ready to avail themselves of the impression this heavy fire was making. At this moment, the *limber* of our captured gun blew up among them. Taking advantage of the consternation occasioned by the explosion, the word "to charge!" was given.

This charge was led by four Officers:—It is right that the names of all who were prominent in such a Scene should be recorded. They were Lieutenants Edward Campbell and Watson, and the Adjutant (I am sorry I know not his name) of the 1st Battalion 24th, now 1st Battalion 1st Madras Native Infantry, and Captain Lloyd. I put them down not by Seniority of Rank, but by priority of position in the charge. "Lieutenants Campbell and Watson," says my Correspondent, were the first up. The Adjutant of the 24th was killed by the side of Campbell; and Lloyd in his rear received 2 balls in his body, when the Arabs gave way and retreated in great confusion. We charged them into the Town, killing great numbers and thus the battle was decided."

So also, if we may judge by the casualties among these brave fellows (two of the 4 were killed and I believe 1 wounded) the New School standard of Brevet Merit would probably include more than one hero of Seetabuldee. Cornet Hearsay is also stated to have distinguished himself remarkably, even in so distinguished a charge, by the capture of some guns, and his immediate and efficient use of them against the enemy.

It is not easy to distinguish the bravest among so many brave. Whom then shall we select for so high a reward as promotion in our Service is, and thus place his actions at a distance so immeasurably great beyond those whose deeds were so like his own?

Another difficulty presents itself. Two Officers of the same corps, one distinguishes himself, the Junior, and is *Brevetted*—his Senior, now superseded, thereafter distinguishes himself still more conspicuously. He too is Brevetted; but he is not I conclude, to retain his Seniority, and if not, it is not merit that regulates the recompense, on the contrary the most meritorious Officer, instead of remaining the Senior, as he would now do, would be the one superseded. This will equally apply to Officers of all corps.

A true and just reward for Merit would be applicable to the Rank among whom it places the individual rewarded, as well as to the Rank from which it takes him; it would not only take him from the lower and promote him to the higher Rank; but would assign to him his place among his new peers. Brevet Rank would not do this, and therefore logically enough it is not a just or true reward for Merits. Nor would Rank by Brevet be an equitable reward; to the oldest Captain of a Regiment, looking out for the line step, a Majority would be but little; to the youngest, it would be immense. What sort of principle of military recompense is it, whose rewards depend for their extent, not upon the Merit of the individual, but upon the inferiority of his Rank?

These are only some of the difficulties which oppose the introduction of the Brevet Rank in question. But a Correspondent tells us, that the institution of Merit Brevet in the King's Army in the Peninsula, proved highly advantageous. This requires proof to be good in argument.

When more causes than one operate to produce an effect, some discrimination is required to fix on the most powerful. For my own part, I do not value this statement, more than I do another given us of a gallant Officer of high rank at the battle of Mahidpore, looking on the field for a Red Ribbon. I am quite sure, that the gallant Officer alluded to, whoever he may be, was in no way influenced on that day by the prospect of Red Ribbons or by personal expectations of any kind; but simply by that ardent desire which every high-minded man possesses to distinguish himself—let honours, and rewards come how they may. The honour of his army, of his corps, of his country, are all in his view; but to destroy his enemy, and to distinguish himself, I maintain, are his immediate incentives.

But admitting that Brevet by Merit was, in the King's service, attended with no injury, nay, was useful; it by no means follows, that the same harmless or good effects might be the result of its adoption into an Army, of a constitution essentially different. Copying the "King's" may often be right, but I detest copying. "He who follows must always be behind." However, let me sell my commission, and purchase a higher one, and again get above the fellow Brevetted before me. Let me exchange into a corps that is going to a *Waterloo*; and if I am not Brevetted too, it may be my own fault. But don't nail me to my Regiment, and perhaps send me to herd the Company's cattle, (as I have done, and a very necessary duty it was) when another corps is going into action, and then punish me by putting a fellow over me who would have made perhaps a better Cowherd than I did.

The subject is not near exhausted; but my time is, and your paper, and perchance your reader's patience, Adieu, therefore, Mr. Editor, for the present, and believe me

Your faithful Servant,

CÆNUS.

Calcutta, Sept. 30, 1819.

Military Points.

Born but to die, and Reasoning but to err.—POPE.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

That the Writer (signing himself *Conciliator*.) in your Journal of the 1st instant, is, like all his fellow-creatures, "born but to die," the common course of things most amply proves; and that he "reasons but to err," his Letter above alluded to, places just as far beyond the reach of doubt. Let him not, however, suppose, that I either condemn what he has advanced, or that I do not appreciate the excellent motives, by which not only his Signature, but his whole Letter, proves him to have been actuated; he will do me great injustice if he should harbour such a suspicion for a moment, and I am in no fear that he will entertain it; as judging from his writings, his disposition is of a very opposite description from that which gives the least charitable turn to the words or actions of others.

The arguments he brings forward against the Right of Challenge at inferior Courts Martial, agreeably to the manner in which it is conceded before General ones, are really exceedingly weak and untenable; and have been already confuted by one of the Writers, who replied to your Correspondent HIRTUS on this very subject, if I remember rightly. It should be recollected, (says CONCILIATOR*) that Officers arraigned before a General Court Martial, being considered as on trial before their *Peers*, the Right of Challenge, may with propriety be conceded to them in its full extent, as above specified, consistent with the efficient administration of Justice. Private men in the same situation, are, it is true, allowed the same privilege, but perhaps this is more for the sake of avoiding an invidious distinction, than from any conviction of its necessity, or even of the probable advantage which the culprit may derive from it. In Regimental Courts Martial, however, (he goes on) the case is much more clear:—there the crimes and punishments are not so grave, and the Officers composing the Court, may be considered in the light of *Judges and Justices*, who are exempted from Challenge.

Good God, Sir, what manner of man is this, who thus argues in direct opposition to the Law, and to every line that has been written by so many learned and able men regarding Military Law? Those gentlemen, who have enriched the Pages of your truly and deservedly named PAPER OF THE PUBLIC, with their ably delivered sentiments on these subjects, appear to, and must, have referred to many Books of high authority:—Let me ask them if ever they have met with such an opinion, or such reasoning as I have here quoted? Surely CONCILIATOR cannot mean to say, although he has said, that a Regimental Court Martial differs in any degree from a General one, except in the number of its Members, and the extent of its Jurisdiction: that its proceedings are conducted on other principles, or defined by other Laws; and that a Member of an inferior Court, sits in a different capacity from that of a Member of a General one:—or in other words that he does not sit as *Judge and Juror*, and as that only?

Officers, he says, are tried by their *Peers*, before a General Court Martial, and that therefore they may be allowed the Right of Challenge. Let me tell him, Sir, that the Prisoner before a Regimental Court is tried by his *Peers*, in like manner—that is, that a Subaltern is as much, and as lawfully the Peer of a Non-Commissioned Officer or Private, as a Field Officer is the Peer of a Subaltern.

The reason laid down by CONCILIATOR for allowing a Private Soldier the same liberty of Challenging before a General Court Martial, as is granted to an Officer, is quite ridiculous: It is allowed, he says, "for the sake of avoiding an invidious distinction! more than from any conviction of its necessity!" The Law, then, grants to one Commoner as an *indulgence*, what it gives to another as a *right*; and Martial Law (most impartially and humanely!) provides amply for an Officer's safety and freedom; but sees no necessity for guaranteeing the Soldier's! This is the only inference which can be drawn from the arguments of CONCILIATOR; who concludes, that part of his Letter with an assertion which shews, that he himself is as singular as to be perfectly satisfied with the soundness and incontestability of his Theory. It is this;—"There may, then, be sufficient reason for allowing Challenges in a General Court Martial, but withdrawing that privilege in the inferior Military Courts."

As to the Vote of Punishment, he seems to have formed no decided opinion, and I shall not therefore observe upon what he has said; but I positively could not refrain from taking up my pen to shew him how much he mistook the Law, regarding inferior Courts Martial, and the Right of Challenge; and which errors are so palpable, that I begin even to doubt whether he be a Military Gentleman at all.

I am, Sir,

RATIO.

Calcutta, October 4, 1819.

P. S. As to one of his reasons about the Crimes and Punishments tried and adjudged before an inferior Court, not being of so grave a nature as those brought before a General one, it is really too childish to attract attention: Just as if a milder punishment (if 800, or 900 lashes can be called so) can be illegally inflicted, any more than a severer one; or as rather if the two Courts award the same degree of punishment under different regulations!

* Do you conceive, Mr. Editor, that, from the manner in which these discussions have been carried on, there was any necessity for a CONCILIATOR between the Disputants?—Certainly not.—EDITOR.

Medical Facts and Opinions.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Having perused a letter from Dr. TYTLER, in the *Asiatic Mirror*, of the 1st instant, it is my wish, on this my first, and in all probability my last appearance before the Public, to hazard a few observations on the doctrine contained in that gentleman's elaborate epistle; a doctrine in my humble opinion, calculated to produce great mischiefs.

The world is certainly much indebted to the zeal and perseverance with which Dr. Tytler supports a *theory*, in the validity of which he has the greatest faith, and the propagation of which he conscientiously believes must prove of the most extensive benefit. The object of this letter, is to calm in some degree the anxiety which now agitates the minds of many, by bringing forward a few instances of the Spasmodic Cholera, Gastritis, Mort de Chien, (or whatever the disease may be denominated) where it extended its ravages to situations in which the supposed poison of rice had no influence.

I am aware that I must submit to be classed among the herd of *Anonymous Writings*, as Dr. Tytler sweepingly and not very politely styles many of his brethren; but as my name is not so well known as that of the learned Doctor, I must be contented to wear the cap, which he so considerably fits to our heads. I might perhaps be able to offer some arguments why this disease cannot with perfect propriety be termed *Gastritis*, both with regard to the symptoms, continuance, and termination, but this is not my present object. It is however exactly the same disease described by *Sydenham* as having been epidemic a hundred and fifty years ago.

The Doctor has called upon the world to produce an instance of the disease having made its attack, when rice had not previously been used.

In the late campaign, the disease committed dreadful ravages in Berar, both among the natives of the Hussingabad Valley, and the Country of Jubbulpoor, as also amongst the troops forming the Brigade commanded by Colonel Adams; and at the time it broke out, it was well known, that neither the sepoys nor the inhabitants had eaten rice, or ever were in the habit of doing so, ottah being used by all of them, not only because they gave it the preference, but on account of its being cheaper and more easily procurable than rice; the former selling in abundance at one rupee eight annas, the latter at two rupees eight annas per maund, and procurable with difficulty.

There were however two instances which may be mentioned as exceptions to this universally known fact, and I shall leave it to Dr. Tytler, to wrest them to the support of his *theory* if he can; facts only shall be related.—A part of the Bengal force, with some of the Madras troops, were detached to Chanda, when, on their arrival, they discovered that ottah was not procurable, consequently they lived for about six days almost entirely upon rice. The first march they made on their return, the Cholera appeared, in the Detachment, and continued to rage with great fury for ten days afterwards. The other instance was this; the medical men at Hussingabad having entertained the opinion, that ottah (the food in use among the sepoys) possessed too heating a quality, recommended that rice made into kanjee, should be used as a substitute, but this advice was not adopted, except by the sick in the hospital.

The Madras troops always, and the inhabitants of the country about Nagpore, generally, eat rice; yet they did not suffer more than those of Hussingabad, or Jubbulpoor, where the disease raged with equal fatality in both places.

The disease still rages at Kurnaul, and in many situations where rice is not within reach of the sufferers; and as it must be admitted, that in the wide spreading havoc which this dreadful distemper has produced, sepoys have suffered, and still suffer in equal proportion with others; how is it to be accounted for, when I advance as a fact, that sepoys in the Upper Provinces, as well as the generality of the inhabitants, in nine hundred and ninety-nine instances out of a thousand, never use rice as their food; how is this to be reconciled to Dr. Tytler's theory?

Having said thus much, I will admit most willingly that *bad rice* has in many instances produced the disease, and I will also admit, that there may have been a great quantity of this poison in circulation at one period, but this I consider as having been only the exciting cause of the disorder, for the time, in common with other indigestible substances, which could produce, and which have produced, precisely the same effect; for when the predisposition existed, a thousand things might be found which would excite the morbid action constituting this disease.

Towards the end of the last year, a boat left Patna, laden with Potatoes, quantities of which were sold by retail at Arrah, Gazeepoor, Benares, Chunar and Mirzapoor, and Cholera attended its progress throughout the whole of this tract; the alarm became general, for it was easily ascertained, that whoever used the Potatoes were instantly attacked with disorder, and many who had dressed and eaten them a few yards from the boat never left the place, where this their last meal was prepared.

It has been said, that the use of the Hilsa fish has produced the disease.—I have no doubt of it. It has been stated, that long continued exposure to cold and moisture has proved the exciting cause of the disorder.—I am sure of it. It has even been asserted, that a draught of cold water, taken immediately after severe exercise, has been followed by Cholera—I believe it.

The morbid effects produced by cold fluids taken into the stomach under particular circumstances are well known; and Alexander the Great lost numbers of his men on the Banks of the Oxus from the same cause. I have heard, that the attack has followed the imprudence of leaving a warm bed, or a heated room, without being properly defended against the external air. In short, when the arthenic disposition prevails, as in the epidemic in question, it would be vain to attempt an enumeration of the various causes which might produce the disease; therefore I think we ought to adopt with caution the practice of drawing general conclusions with regard to the effects of any particular substance from the accidental results which have occurred in particular instances.

Dr. Tytler remarks, that the disorder appeared at Ceylon soon after the arrival of the Volunteers; but the same disease was well known on that Island, long before any troops were sent from this quarter, and I fancy many years before Dr. Tytler was born. In further support of what I have advanced, it may be worthy of notice, that it was a notorious fact in the Brigade above alluded to, that those who had been under arms in the day, exposed to a burning sun, and who were afterwards detached as outstanding sentries subjected to the effects of the cold and damp night air, were much more obnoxious to the disorder than those who were off duty. I have this instant seen a Letter signed Quiz, dated from Tirhoot the 16th, and published in the Harkara of the 30th of August, to which I would beg leave to refer my readers, as it contains "confirmation strong" of the superiority of the side of the question which I have chosen.

Dr. Tytler has no reason to complain of want of support; while *DANOCRITUS* can so ably avail in his defence, for sure a more strenuous advocate has not appeared since the days of Avicenna, and another *anonymous writing* who wrote from the banks of the Jumna. So completely indeed has *DANOCRITUS* identified himself with the Doctor, that I cannot avoid noticing some parts of his letter, and shall make no apology for transcribing some of the passages, because he has shewn me the example. After having made a few remarks on the very singular production of W. P. M. he proceeds to offer comments for the benefit of future generations, in one of which, he states, that "all the medical men of India have, in spite of the sufferings of their fellow creatures, withheld their assent to the explanations of Dr. Tytler" but here he must have forgot himself, or at all events forgot the Authors before alluded to, as well as *EQUITAS*, whom he himself mentions in another part of his Letter. He now quotes the words of W. P. M. that "no doubt unwholesome rice has in many instances occasioned the Cholera" and adds, "Sir, Dr. Tytler as far as his Letters in the newspapers go, never asserted more, yet at no time before, has it been allowed by one of our Medical men."

Surely I must have forgotten what was written on the subject by the writers before mentioned; and if Dr. Tytler never asserted more than what is admitted by W. P. M. I must have been dreaming all along; for I confess I had adopted the idea, that Dr. Tytler attributed the prevalence of the disease solely to the use of unwholesome rice, and I presume it will appear evident, that his friend *DANOCRITUS* infers as much in the following passage. "This assertion I take the liberty to contest, because the use of the cold fruits, or as I apprehend he means, fruits liable to run into the *use* of fermentation and not digestion, within the stomach, are no doubt capable of exciting inflammation and various other diseases of the viscera, but they will not produce the raging distemper, which (and probably from its depending upon the action of a SPECIFIC POISON) differs in its symptoms very materially from every other disease consequent to the employment of unwholesome food."

Here it appears clear to me, as an explanation of Dr. Tytler's doctrine, that unwholesome or indigestible substances may produce a great variety of diseases, but will not produce Cholera. No, nothing besides the *specific poison of rice* can have that effect. But again "I ask him (W. P. M.)" "to adduce a single instance in which these causes operated in the production of the prevailing sickness, or indeed in any case of Cholera Morbus." What causes fermentation and not digestion within the stomach, or any unwholesome food? Oh no! there is no specific poison in any of these, that is only to be found in rice. They may produce inflammation (Gastritis) but they cannot produce the prevailing sickness.

The next paragraph is a mere cavil upon words, and unworthy of notice; it is indeed as poor in toto, as the concluding simile about the Typhoon in the China Seas, (he means an Irish hurricane) which blows from all directions at one and the same moment. Dr. Tytler, (I beg his pardon) *DANOCRITUS* I mean, states damaged rice to be, in Dr. Tytler's opinion, the unequivocal "source of the disease," and appears surprised, that an abundant and unwholesome harvest, should not have been deemed adequate to produce all the mischiefs that have occurred; but let the reader keep in mind, that this unwholesome food is rice; had it been any thing else, the symptoms would have differed very materially.

Danocritus asks, alluding to the mortality among the shipping at St. Helena, "Would good, wholesome, wheat flour, supplied to these men, with only water to drink, have been followed by the same deadly effect?" Not certainly as a consequence of using that food! "Man may live on bread only, which is the very staff and support of life." Then why not upon good rice?—but "I do not believe there breathes an individual, who could exist for a fortnight upon rice solely."

In a subsequent passage, he asserts "he" (Dr. T.) "has proved, that the rice is the cause of the pestilence, and this with such strength of argument, and force of fact, that even W. P. M. has no doubt, that it in many instances produces the disorder." Yet as far as I know, W. P. M. has never allowed, that he believed it to be the sole source of Cholera, or that no other indigestible substance or unwholesome food, could produce the same disease! If

the whole fabric of the Old School "is tottering to its base," we shall conclude that it must soon fall. In the mean time I should be glad to know, what we are to have erected in its stead! merely the opinion of one, to which ALL the medical men of India withhold their assent?

But to conclude, W. P. M. is as well known as Dr. Tytler; he may be silent, but it will be a silence of prudence, not of necessity; it will be a silence of contempt, for what has too long occupied the attention of an anonymous witling.

Bombay, Sept. 9, 1819.

NEMO.

The Indian.

No. I.

Monday, September 6, 1819.

Authors would profit or delight mankind,
And with the pleasing have the instructive join'd;
Short be the precept, which, with ease, is gain'd
By docile minds and faithfully retain'd.
In dull length your moral is expressed,
The tedious wisdom overflows the breast.

Under the auspices of a British Press and British Patronage, *The Indian* makes his appearance on the great stage of the world. He hopes that his character and complexion will not prejudice the European Community against him, or deter them from bestowing that attention on his humble efforts to please every class of his readers—which he claims from their benevolence; and from estimating his labours according to the merit of his productions.

It has been said somewhere, that when a periodical writer makes his debut, his readers, before they determine upon perusing the work and appreciating its value accordingly, enquire, in general, whether he be a good or bad man, an European or Native, of a dark or fair complexion, whether handsome or ugly, a wit or a mere prying fellow, whether rich or poor, and lastly, whether universally known, admired and feared; or one who writes from the consideration of earning a subsistence and of acquiring, as it is urged, a pecuniary independence. With such enquiries, the judgment of the reader is biassed for, or against, the author, according to the prepossession or prejudice he may imbibe, without any regard to the matter, on which he is disposed to form a judgment.

As I do not pretend to be able to satisfy all my readers in every particular, and being a plain honest man, I shall not hold out any hopes, or make professions before hand, to raise or disappoint the expectation of my readers; for I may be so fortunate as to satisfy it in some respects, or I may prove so unfortunate as, in the end, to disappoint it completely. I shall leave to the good natured and compassionate, to make every allowance for my Indian habits, principles and education.

To such of my fair readers, as may be induced generously to extend their patronage and protection to my humble labours, I shall devote the greater part of my time to afford them every rational amusement and pleasure in my power.

My object in thus stepping forward, as a periodical writer, is simply to communicate entertainment, if not instruction, to all classes of readers, as well as to chase away the languor of a few leisure hours. But before I proceed forward in the execution of my task, it will be necessary for me to give a succinct account of my birth, family and connections in life, and this I will do with as much brevity as possible.

My father's name was Abdallah, and my mother used to be called Zebounissa—they have long since quitted this world of cares and anxiety. Peace be to their shades and let their hallowed ashes repose in security. I was born on the 15th day of the month of Zeead, in the year of the Hegira, 1209, under the auspicious influence of the Planet called in the English language Jupiter. When I reached my twenty-third year, I became united with an amiable young woman, whose charms shone with a brightness, surpassing that of the full moon, and when she moved,

"Grace was in all her steps, heav'n in her eye."

She was named Nagmunissa and her parents were universally respected and beloved. I had known her for three years, and unlike the customs of us Indians, we were married from the purest motives of love. She was very much admired and her first and last wish was to please and render me completely happy, by shewing that she was no less so herself. She was 18 years of age on her marriage, and was born under the benign influence of the brightest planet in the heavens, designated Venus. The strongest circumstance in the world tended to promote our acquaintance, which ultimately improved into love and friendship, and terminated in our union.

I had quitted school at the early age of 19, but having no immediate prospects of quitting the country, which gave me birth and holding no lucrative employment, I resolved, if possible to remain in the house of my tutor. Accordingly I communicated my wish to my revered Preceptor, and he willingly acceded to it. We settled to our mutual satisfaction, that I

should continue to lodge with him, until it pleased fortune to transport me to some remote Country, in search of that object, which all men are anxious of obtaining,—Independence.

One morning, as I happened to sleep rather late, a school-fellow of mine, who lodged in the same apartment with me, roused me by giving me a sudden jerk on the shoulder, and desired that I should look out of the window into the precincts of an adjoining house. We lived on the third story, and next door to us was a female seminary. The mistress of it, owing to some casualty, had lost a great number of her scholars. I certainly expected to have seen something very extraordinary, but judge of my surprise, when I perceived three or four beautiful young women walking hand in hand round the house. Every moment they kept looking at us, and I could not, for the universe, withdraw my eyes from admiring the beauties of one in particular. This young lady was of a middling stature, had a fair complexion, and, as I afterwards found, languishing eyes. She had an expressive countenance, and a gait and manner the most pleasing and captivating in the world. We soon contracted an acquaintance, which in the end led to the happy event I have before mentioned. She had a younger sister, and both she and my fair charmer possessed a disposition as amiable, as their hearts were affectionate and tender.

In the course of a few months I was under the necessity of quitting my native Country and proceeding to a distant quarter. It would be a waste of time to enumerate every particular which befell us; suffice it to say that at the expiration of nearly two years, I returned safely to my birth place, intending to consummate my marriage with this lovely creature. Thus was our mutual wish completed and we were made one of the happiest couples in existence. I shall never forget the words, uttered from her beautiful lips, which first sounded in my ears and I was enraptured to a degree. "Love, Love" were several times repeated to me. To be thus addressed in the softest accents of love and affection is a happiness not to be expressed, and can only be contrasted with that coldness, which a man feels for a woman, who cannot acquire his affection or command his esteem, and which in short, all who are married from other motives than of love or merit must feel. Voltaire's expression is as beautiful as it is just, "*L'amitié est le mariage d'ame*," that friendship is the marriage of the Soul, and we may say that marriage without love is but a union of the body, too degrading to be desired by any rational being; and love, without any other motives of regard, is too inconstant a passion, whose very violence is destructive of itself without it could be concentrated by qualities, that would create and preserve our affection. Friendships of love are strongest, where they mutually animate one another by a kind of reaction and call forth every sympathy of the soul, marriage can only then be happy, when it is warmed by Love and cemented by Friendship.

I have talked enough of my own importance and I shall now conclude with observing that if I find my endeavours meet with encouragement, they shall be exerted for the entertainment of the community at large.

Marco Polo.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Being a good deal addicted to the reading of old books of travels, I amuse myself with estimating, on every occasion of probable trespass, the honesty of the traveller, and the various degrees of credulity that may be supposed to exist among his readers. There is no traveller that gives more employment in this way than Marco Polo; but I am disposed to think that the number of facts that he can be justly charged with exaggerating or inventing has been considerably overrated.

For instance, he mentions that in the province of Lagnebia, which is dependent on the Empire of Tamisia, from which it is distant many thousand miles, the Viceroy has the power of deciding things of the greatest importance, and of embarking in enterprizes wherein the welfare of the state—the lives and fortunes of all the inhabitants—are deeply concerned; but that in matters of trifling consequence, and questions affecting small interests, he must consult the council of the Humbugi, who govern Lagnebia under the control of the Emperor of Tamisia.

While Marco Polo sojourned in the country, a dispute arose respecting the construction of the will of a former Viceroy, on which the due management of several large benefactions, and the exercise of certain privileges depended. Though the will was not more than thirty three years old, yet there were some among the Lagnebians who found it convenient to insist that they could not understand it, but they were willing to read it as the Viceroy should read it. This being an affair to which, on account of its little significance, the Viceroy's power of decision did not extend, he referred it to the Honorable the Council of the Humbugi, who did not return an answer,—and that a very unsatisfactory one,—until after the lapse of five years from the date of the reference!

This story may appear incredible to those whose reading is confined to very modern times, but for my part I have met with many things to induce me to make large allowances for the effects of scrupulosity and circumspection in regulating the march of human affairs; and therefore I am not ashamed to profess my belief in the authenticity of my author's relation.

Calcutta, October 6, 1819.

PATIENCE.

Original.

Lines suggested by a Visit to the last Conversazione.

1.

When ***** joins the sprightly dance,
A Fairy's agile form she takes,
So gay her air, so sweet her glance,
My mind, bewildered in the trance,
Reality forsakes,
Along the ground she lightly trips,
So light that scarce she seems to tread,
Smiles hover o'er her dimpled lips,
While from her locks sly Cupid peeps
And scatters roses on her head.

2.

Is it her form that most delights,
Her airiness of step that charms?
Her modest gesture that invites,
Or Love, who sportive in his sights,
My anxious bosom warms?
Whatever 'tis,—or part or whole,
She steals upon my raptured view
With fond delight and soft control,
That gives an impulse to my soul,
An impulse that it never knew.

3.

So lightly dance the roseate Hours,
When Spring's soft buds with sweets abound;
When Zephyrs kiss the opening flowers
Moist with the tears of April showers,
And waft a thousand scents around.
Brightened with smiles celestial sweet,
The beauteous Maidens bound along
The yielding skies with airy feet,
Till Night conceals their gay retreat,
And stills their harmony of song.

TRIPUDIA.

September 29, 1819.

NOTICE.

The Editor of this Journal, has had handed to him for publication a "Statement of Mr. Darwall," attempting to justify his recourse to violence in an affair, which has been already detailed to the Public for no other reason than that the offence was given for a supposed abuse of a public privilege,—and was in no way connected with private conduct or private character.

It is neither wished nor intended therefore to make it a matter of discussion, or to let it rest on an appeal to public opinion. The facts of the case will be PROVED to that Authority to which the offender is justly amenable; and whatever may be urged in defence or mitigation, will no doubt be there heard and received with the weight that may be due to it. The case, however, standing for the decision of that Authority, is no longer one either of discussion or appeal, though the Public will best judge whether the mere calling out a man's name is a TIMELY WARNING, or whether one who had GIVEN another a horsewhipping instead of RECEIVED it, would be likely to decline the invitation to continue the mode of combat he had chosen, unless he had taken some undue advantage at first, and was afterwards afraid to meet on equal terms when his adversary was prepared and on his guard.

The Law, however, will best settle those points; and the same feeling which induced the Editor of this Journal to deny to his assailant, the appeal to a privilege which he had forfeited by his ungentlemanly conduct; induces him at present to decline entering into a discussion on a point referred by necessity to legal decision;—the very publicity of the assault having placed the parties under the immediate surveillance of the municipal officers, and prevented the possibility of any other result, even had it been wished or thought proper.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The First and Second Numbers of an intended periodical Paper, entitled "THE INDIAN," have been received. It is the ordinary fate of periodical Essays of this description either to tire the patience of the reader, by want of variety in the subjects, or soon to fail altogether, from an incapacity on the part of the Writer to keep pace with his original intentions. It is thus, that we have seen the "Sunday Guardian" and the "Breakfast Hours" of this Settlement, both die natural deaths; the one after lingering out about fifty weeks of a weary existence, the other, as well as we remember, a few weeks only after its birth, though it set out with a profession of entertaining the Town for a long period to come.

Administration to Estates.

John Macleod, Esq.—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Thomas Hawkins, late a Writer in the Adjutant General's Office—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Captain George Barker, late of the 2d Batt. 19th N. I.—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Henry Read, late of Calcutta—William Wooley, Esq. of ditto.
Charles Holloway, Esq. late of Padang—John Palmer, Esq. of Calcutta.
John Howell, late a Surgeon in the Honorable Company's Service—Major George Sargent.
Captain Mathew Dunbar—Edward Carncross Sneyd.
Johanna Christina Alley—Benjamin Fergusson, Esq.
James Reynolds—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Gunter Lyde Browne—Dempster Heming, Esq.
John Jacob, late of the 2d Batt. 23d N. I.—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Captain Cameron, late of the 76th Regt.—Dempster Heming, Esq.
Samuel Engel, late a Captain in the 75th—Dempster Heming, Esq.
William Oneil, late a Surgeon in the Honorable Company's Service—Anne Louisa Oneil.
Captain Benjamin Mathew, late of Rajpootana—Captain Charles Bonytham Borlase of the same place.
Philip Brady—James Mackillop, Esq.
John Maxwell Davidson, late of Puneah in the Honorable Company's Service—George Mackillop, Esq.
Lieutenant Frederick Anstice, late of the 17th N. I.—Catherine Anstice, widow.

Domestic Occurrences.

MARRIAGES.

On the 1st instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. Mr. Corrie, Mr. C. M. Hollingbery, to Miss Jessie Welsh.
On the 2d instant, at the Catholic Church, Mr. Francis Rodrigues, jun. to Miss Lydia Contestabili.

BIRTHS.

On the 2d instant, Madame Picard, of a Daughter.
On the 4th instant, the Lady of G. Vignon, Esq. of a Son.
On the 25th ultimo, the Lady of Joseph Watts, Esq. of a Son.
On the 29th ultimo, Mrs. E. Laiten, of a Daughter.
At Sulkes, on the 30th ultimo, Mrs. John Mills, of a Daughter.
At Chinsurah, on the 23d ultimo, Mrs. Vant Hart, of a Son.

DEATHS.

On the 1st instant, on board the Prince Blucher, Mr. J. A. Greebe, late Chief Officer of the ship Aurora, aged 23.
On the 2d instant, Mrs. Pascoalla Savage, aged 60, sincerely regretted by a numerous circle of relations.
On the 3d instant, at 4 P. M. after an illness of only 48 hours, Captain John Cuthbertson, late of the ship Bengal, of Liverpool, aged 29 years and 10 months. His loss is deeply lamented by an affectionate brother, and a large circle of friends to whom his manly virtues had endeared him.
On the 4th instant, Mr. David MacKenzie, of the Bengal Country Service, aged 24, son of the Rev. George MacKenzie, Minister of Opring, Caithness—much and justly regretted by those who knew him.
On the 24th ultimo, at the General Hospital, after a short but painful illness, Captain William Dallas of the Country Service, aged 54 years. A man who was constantly beloved by all his friends and acquaintance, for his goodness of heart, the mildness of his temper, and the suavity of his manners; and whose loss is now most deeply deplored by them.
On the 26th ultimo, Captain Gunter Lyde Browne, late to the H. C. Regular Service, aged 40.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 3	Saje	Arab	Nacoda	Mocha	Aug. 17.
4	Mary Ann	British	J. Williams	Madras	Sept. 17
4	Ango	British	R. Humphreys	Padang	Sept. 6
4	Norfolk	British	E. Cakes	Vizagapatam	Sept. 27
4	George	American	T. West	Salem	June 9
4	Candry	British	R. Callendar	Malabar	—
5	Williams	American	B. Andrews	Batavia	Aug. 22

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

(None)

BOMBAY ARRIVALS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 9	Pascon	British	Samuel Ashmore	Calcutta	July 9

BOMBAY DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Sept. 4	Eliza	British	B. S. Woodhead	Madras

Printed at the Union Press, in Garsin's Buildings near the Bankshall and the Exchange.